

SPORTS



This year's European champion in figure skating Yelena Valova and Oleg Vasiliev.

European figure skating

Katerina Witt, of the GDR, has won gold in the women's singles. Soviet girl Kira Ivanova is second and Claudia Leistner of the FRG, third. Muscovite Anna Kondratyeva came in fifth and Natalya Ledeva of Sverdlovsk, sixth.

NEHRU CUP GOES TO THE USSR

After a 2-1 win over Yugoslavia, the Soviet youth soccer team captured the 4th International Jawaharlal Nehru Cup which was played out at the town of Cochin, India.

PRIZE FOR SOVIET FEDERATION

At a meeting of its Executive Bureau in Paris, the World Underwater Federation has granted the USSR Federation for Underwater Sport a prize "For Sports Successes and Contribution to the Development of Underwater Sport Worldwide". This recently inaugurated prize will be presented every year.

Last year alone Soviet athletes won 114 gold, 63 silver and 25 bronze international medals in speed diving. Svetlana Kirova of Leningrad set five

world records, and Oleg Strelkov of Kiev, three. At last year's youth European championship Sergei Smirnov of Moscow won seven gold, Svetlana Yablochkina also of Moscow captured six golds, and Svetlana Ibragimova from Sverdlovsk, five.

The shoot-out between Moscow clubs CAC and Dynamo in the current national ice-hockey championship was in fact a spotlight with both teams producing a top-notch performance. The top rivalry match for the third time in the championship while Dynamo had won the two previous meets. The third game ended in a 1-1 draw with Khomutov of CAC scoring in the third minute and Dynamo's Zolotarev netting the equalizer in the 4th minute.

● A tense moment in the game.

Photo by Andrei Knyazov

VYING FOR CHESS CROWNS

After 47 indecisive games played in the Hall of Columns in the House of Trade Unions, Anatoly Karpov and Gari Kasparov will resume their series, this time at the conference hall in the Sport Hotel. The first to win six games will emerge victorious, the score to date is 5-2 in Karpov's favour.

Champion's prediction comes true

The 53th Monte Carlo Rally — the first stage of the championship for drivers and car manufacturers — has ended exactly as Stig Blomqvist of Sweden, the current world champion, predicted at the last year's final stage in Britain. Asked to comment about Ari Vatanen, who was competing on a Peugeot-205 Turbo 16, he said: At least a good rival and a good car have emerged. He is nice to compete with.

The first starts this year proved him right. Though Walter Rohrl virtually did head the race in his Audi Sport-Quattro right to the finish, he was closely followed by Vatanen who was only 4 min 41 sec behind. The 27th speed stretch (altogether there were 33) was decisive for them. Rohrl, who won four of the previous five Monte Carlo rallies, decided to choose the right tyre, he preferred those for less driving, despite the fact that the stretch was covered with snow. Vatanen didn't miss the opportunity and took first place, redig 5 min 17 sec ahead of his main rival.

The Peugeot team were winners-lake-lake. Timo Salonen was third and Bruno Sebby — fifth. Blomqvist on Audi Sport-Quattro came fourth.

two years instead of three. The first stage of the annual elimination games (the USSR constitution an individual zone of FIDE, the World Chess Federation) took place in Chernigov. The first four places and the right to play in the interzonals were won by Tamara Litnaksaya, Yelena Akhmylovskaya, Svetlana



For the second year in succession, Erika Hess, of Switzerland, has won the world gold, this time at Dortmund, Italy.

Photo Renter-TASS

HER EYES SET ON A NEW VICTORY

Carla Kania-Enke, thrice Olympic champion of the GDR, has given birth to a baby boy, Sasha. Soon after becoming a mother she again started dreaming of going back to the ice. In an interview granted "Junge Welt" she said that she would start her training sessions as soon as doctors gave her go-ahead, and that she had no doubts being among the world skating elite.

Nothing had happened to ailing, she said, except that the Dutch had asked their way to the fore. She said she was glad that the European title went to her competitor, Andrea Schön.

Matveyeva and Nino Gurt. They will be joined in the two interzonal championships by other Soviet Grandmasters: Nena Copridashvili, Nana Alexandriya and Nana Iosadze who took part in the quarter and semifinals of the previous championship. The last elimination stage — two rounds involving all the competitors (the replaces matches between them can be joined by two more Soviet chess grand — Lyda Semyonova and Irina Levina. They and three winners in each of the interzonals (14, eight in all) will fight for the right to challenge the reigning chess queen, Maya Chiburdidze of the USSR, in 1986.

MACEDO REPLACES SANTANA

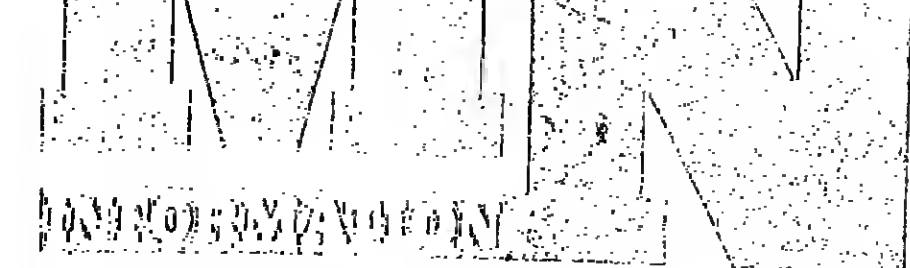
Following protracted negotiations the Brazil Football Federation has appointed Macedo, 31, chief coach of international team. Despite controversy reports, Macedo had been through his coaching terms, to leave Sandi Ant where he coaches the team before the term expires. Macedo, who coaches America club in Rio de Janeiro, declared that the lineup "be physically fit and a better technique".

In June the Brazilians will meet their rivals in the world championship elimination.

FOOTBALL NEWS

● The Greek club Larissa are to play Moscow Dynamo in the quarterfinals of the European Cup Winners' Cup on May 6 and 20, drew 2-2 in a recent match played against a team as part of the national tournament. Larissa clinging to the seventh place with 21 points after 19 games. The championship is headed by PAOK with 27 points.

● Dinamo's rivals in quarterfinals, the Bordeaux are still occupying the top place in the tournament table. In French championship Dinamo 37 points after 23 matches. Dinamo is followed by Auxerre club with 33 points. In the latest round the Bordeaux team played home pitch drawing 1-1 after an opening goal by the half. In the middle of the half, Jean Tigana netted while a few minutes before the end of the match, the Bordeaux consolidated by Didier



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Andreas Papandreou in the USSR

The Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou of the Hellenic Republic has arrived in Moscow at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

Lett to right: Andreas Papandreou, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Nikolai Tikhonov and USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrei Gromyko at the airport.

Photo by Sergei Smirnov



UN CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Called a regional UN conference convened within framework of the World Campaign for Disarmament has opened here. Taking part in its deliberations are delegations — non-governmental organizations from the majority of African countries. Representatives of the Soviet Union, India, the USA and several other countries have arrived to present reports.

Its agenda includes the discussion of the struggle for disarmament both on global and regional scales and for turning the African continent into a zone free of nuclear weapons. Speaking at the conference, the chairman of the 73th session of the UN General Assembly, Puri Lalsala, pointed out the primary importance of disarmament for the preservation and consolidation of peace and security.



The United States Air Force base at Moleworth (Cambridge, Britain) prefers to be surrounded by a 11 km-long line of protest over the impending deployment there of 64 American cruise missiles in accordance with NATO plans, he says.

Photo AP-TASS

POLISH LEADER VISITS INDIA

New Delhi. General of the Army Wojciech Jaruzelski, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Poland, arrived here on a five-day official visit at the invitation of India's Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

HAFEZ AL-ASSAD ON USSR'S POLICY

Damascus. President Hafez al-Assad of Syria spoke highly of the Soviet Union's consistent policy in questions of the Middle East settlement and the support rendered by the USSR to the just struggle of the Arab peoples for the liberation of the territories occupied by Israel and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the peoples of the region.

He said this at a meeting with a delegation of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, headed by Boris Pastukhov, Chairman of the Central

Statement by France's Minister of Defence

Paris. France takes a negative stand on the American plans for the militarization of outer space since this will inevitably lead to unleashing the race in offensive arms on the Earth. This was declared by Charles Hernu, Minister of Defence of France, in a speech in Munich at the annual international conference of the West German military-scientific society Wehrkunde, as reported

Round the Soviet Union

● THE MEZON FACTORY IN KISHINEV HAS CONSIDERABLY STEPPED UP THE PRODUCTION OF ELEKTRONIKA-302 CASSETTE TAPE-RECORDERS. Their daily production is now 50 per cent more than in December 1984.

● NATURAL GAS HAS COME TO THE MAISKY SETTLEMENT OF PRIGORODNY DISTRICT (NORTH OSSETIAN AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC). This completes the provision of gas supply to all district canals and large populated areas of the autonomous republic.

● SCIENTISTS FROM THE BYELORUSSIAN CAPITAL MINSK AND LENINGRAD HAVE DISCOVERED A NEW POLYMER THAT WILL SERVE ITS PURPOSE AND THEN DISAPPEAR WITHOUT A TRACE. Manufacture of polythene films, which can be destroyed through the influence of light, has been started at the Navapalsk Polymer association. The cheap polymer film net polluting the environment after being used will be advantageous to many agricultural workers, especially farmers cultivating vegetables in the open air.

● AN AVTOVAZ SERVICE STATION HAS STARTED FUNCTIONING AT THE MAGISTRALY SETTLEMENT (Irkutsk Region) in the western section of the Balkal-Amur Railway.

SOVIET WRITERS PROTEST

The Writers' Union of the USSR has issued a statement calling for an end to anti-congressional persecution of members of the anti-war movement in the Federal Republic of Germany.

It is with the feeling of overwhelming indignation, the statement says in part, that the Soviet writers' journal of the arbitrary decision of the judicial authorities of the FRG with respect to a prominent West German author, scholar and public figure, Walter Jens, who is "guilty" only of having taken part in a peaceful demonstration of protest against the deployment of US first-strike weapons — Pershing-2 missiles — on the territory of the FRG.

The sentence passed by the judicial authorities on Walter Jens comes as fresh evidence of

the fact that the ruling quarters of the FRG are unwilling to heed the voice of a majority of the country's population demanding that the US missiles be removed from West German territory, the statement says.

Soviet writers strongly protest against the court ruling with respect to our colleague Walter Jens, the statement emphasizes.

Cultural programme with Spain initialed

The 1986-87 Soviet-Spanish cultural cooperation programme has been initialed in Moscow.

This is yet another example of the successfully developing cultural links between the two countries, said Yuri Kirichenko, head of the USSR Foreign Ministry department for cultural relations. Exchanges in the field of cinema, TV, sports, etc., help draw our nations closer and gain better knowledge about each other's national culture. Soviet performers have on more than one occasion won the hearts of Spanish audiences while artists from Spain are accorded a warm welcome by Soviet audiences.

The new programme will make it possible to diversify cultural exchanges, and undoubtedly, benefit both countries.

Says Miguel Carriedo, director-general of the department of cultural relations of the Spanish Foreign Ministry:

I would like to pinpoint two major things. First, the considerable diversity and intensity of exchanges and links. Second, the numerous contacts envisaged, to the programme between Spanish and Soviet people. This is exactly what enlivens the formal documents.

The initialed programme is viewed not as an end in itself, but as a point of reference for evaluating our further progress.

EUROPE NAMES GRANDS



European champions in ice skating Natalya Batenyeva and Andrei Bukin.

The desire of figure skaters to put up brilliant performances right from the start of each Olympic four-year cycle, has made the European championship in Goteborg, Sweden, acquire special dramatics: the golds have suddenly become heavier, more enviable.

The Soviet team grabbed the largest number of medals — two golds, four silvers and one bronze — in all the four events of the championship. The pairs and dancing duets were in an exceptionally top form.

In the pairs' category, Soviet skaters of Gornostayevskaya and Medvedev won the gold medal in the last Olympics.

Photo by Boris Kaidman



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MN INFORMATION

HOME NEWS

Round the Soviet Union

● A GENERAL SCHEME FOR RATIONAL UTILIZATION OF LAND RESOURCES COMPLETED IN ARMENIA WILL HELP PUT TO GOOD USE MORE THAN 100,000 HECTARES OF WASTE LAND. Farms on the Shirak Plateau, Zangazur Highlands and the Ararat Valley have been provided with scientifically substantiated recommendations — cartograms of cultivated stony soil. Comprehensive investigations carried out by specialists will help farmers make better use of arable lands and also increase the output of animal products.

● THE COMPUTING CENTRE OF THE SIBERIAN DEPARTMENT OF THE USSR ACADEMY OF SCIENCES HAS TAKEN DELIVERY OF MINI-, MICRO- AND MULTICOMPUTERS. They have already been switched to the network of computers in collective use here. Thanks to this it has become possible to use bigger computers more efficiently. A complex has been designed and equipped in conjunction with Polish specialists.

● IN SOUTHERN UZBEKISTAN (CENTRAL ASIA) THE PAMUK HAS BEEN COMPLETED. A plant with a capacity of 5,000 million cu m a year and meant for full-cycle preparation of gas has gone into operation. It is a major technical complex emitting the cleaning of natural fuel from mechanical impurities (sand and gravel) and its separation from the condensate. The fuel is then channelled to gas processing works from where it goes to the gasometer, feeding for the industrial centres of Uzbekistan, the neighbouring Central Asian republics and the Ural.

GAS FROM YAMBURG

The Soviet press keeps reporting about the development of a new major gas-condensate deposit in Yamburg situated beyond the Polar Circle in Western Siberia.

The new deposit is to start producing gas in the next two-year period (1986-1988). In the last decade of the current century Yamburg will play the main part in increasing gas output in the country.

This area is distinguished for its exceptionally severe natural conditions: permafrost, marshlands, short summer and long winter when the frost of 35-40°C lasts for a long time and some-

Nature preserves: a finger on the planet's pulse

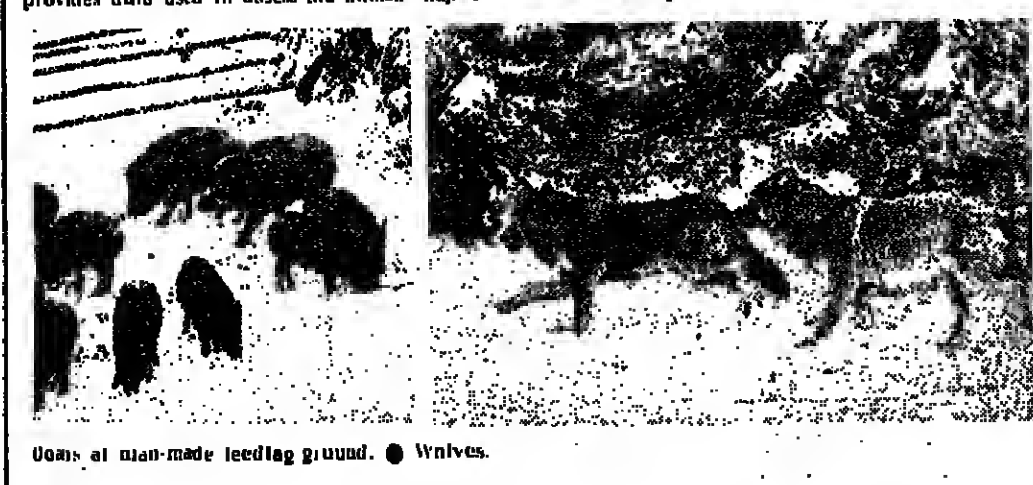
The 145 state nature preserves in the USSR occupy over 140 thousand kilometers. These pictures were taken at the Berezinsky preserve extending over 78 hectares at Polotsk in Byelorussia. It has the status of a biospheric preserve.



Auroch, the patriarch of Byelorussian forests.

The idea of a biospheric preserve is in line with the global strategy for environmental protection and a UNESCO-sponsored programme. Man and the Biosphere (MAB). Each such preserve occupies a vast area divided into several zones. The nucleus, or the kernel zone, prohibits any interference in nature and its processes. The buffer zone allows limited experimental and research. The outer zone is marked by extensive planned development. Comparison of the zones provides data used in assessing the human impact.

UNESCO has already sponsored 228 biospheric preserves the world over. They represent the most characteristic ecological systems. The Soviet Union currently has only seven biospheric preserves. The Berezinsky and Prinskoye-Terrany are situated in the forest belt. The Central Black-Sea preserve is in forested steppe; Repetek is in the Karakum Desert; the Caucasus, Sary-Chok, Stikhol-Aila represent forested mountains. Twenty more such preserves are planned to be set up.



Ugals at man-made feeding ground. W. V. V. V. V.

Biochemistry plant in the Ukraine

The first section of the Tri-polykha biochemistry plant is set for the production of lincos.

lines reaches 50-55 degrees. Due to lack of good roads cargoes are delivered there mainly by air and water — sea and river vessels making use of the brief navigation period in the Ob Bay. Therefore, the railway became one of the main projects to link Yamburg with Novy Urengoy — another gas production centre of Western Siberia — at about 140 km to the south. The traffic on the new line is to open in 1986.

Apart from production facilities the city of Yamburg, workers' settlements and motor roads are also being built in the new deposit area. It is planned to lay six gas

pipelines of 1,420 mm in diameter from Yamburg to the Bureya part of the country. The first is already under construction.

Natural gas is one of the main fuels in the USSR. Its importance for the country's economy is growing from year to year. In 1985 natural gas production must increase by nearly 9 percent compared with 1984, exceeding 632,000 million cu m.

The enrichment of fodder with lincos for fattening cattle, pigs and poultry makes up 10 percent of the nutritive substances in natural fodder. One tonne of lincos promotes the animals to gain a weight of 12.5 tonnes. One hundred tonnes of grain will thus be saved.

Trap for heat

A considerable economic effect will be obtained by the heat recovery installations when production has started at Sany (Ukraine). Utilizing the heat of exhaust fumes, they simultaneously prevent air contamination.

The new equipment is meant to operate together with powerful gas pumping units. The heat of their engines goes to warm up various projects.

One such installation is meant to meet heat requirements of a settlement with a population of many thousands.

Travelling chicken

A major poultry factory is under construction in the town of Sazan, one hundred kilometers from the capital of Azerbaijan. Forty poultry farms have already been commissioned there.

The structures and technological equipment for the poultry yards were delivered from Hungary. The first batch of chicks also came from Budapest.

Water for southern Karakum Desert

A vast pasture zone has not acted up in the southern Karakum Desert of Turkmenia in Central Asia. The construction of a major irrigation system was completed by putting into operation the last complex of the Kizil-Arva water canal. Taking its source from an underground lake, the pipeline which stretched for many kilometers, has supplied, through distribution systems, water in nearly 200,000 hectares of pastures used by the nomadic sheep-breeding farms. The last section of this system was built on the territory of the Badkhyz reserve and is meant for only for the flock of state farms in this district but also for protected animals. Now the new oasis in the desert has about 200 km of canals supplying water from underground springs to the remotest parts of the desert. Usually subterranean waters are used only for drinking and household purposes. But local scientists have calculated that subsoil water reserves are quite enough to supply the water a part of pasture.

More than 20 underground water deposits have been predicted in the Karakum Desert. They will supply vast pastures with water.

HOME NEWS

Named after Indira Gandhi

The name of the glorious daughter of the Indian people, Indira Gandhi, has been conferred on the Central Scientific Library of Tajikistan. The library's fund consists of one-and-a-half million books. It is engaged to book exchange with many scientific establishments both in the USSR and abroad. Among them are sixteen libraries in New Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay and other Indian cities.

First to congratulate the staff members of the library on the remarkable occasion was M. A. Abov, President of Tajikistan's Academy of Sciences, who is also a winner of the Jawahar Lal Nehru Prize. We are happy to learn that the solemn act of conferring Indira Gandhi's name on one of the biggest libraries in the republic coincided with the national festival of the Indian people — the 35th anniversary of the Republic.



This is the official souvenir of the 12th World Festival of Youth and Students — Katyusha with the Peace Dove on her palm.

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE 12th WORLD FESTIVAL IN MOSCOW

Representatives of youth and student movements from 34 countries and nine international organizations of various political orientations have started drawing up the programme for the 12th World Festival of Youth and Students, to be held in Moscow this summer. They made up the standing commission of the International Preparatory Committee of the festival, which is now functioning in the Soviet capital.

Late in March the commission will submit for the consideration of the Preparatory Committee a detailed project of the festival programme.

All functions of the festival will be held as a part of its live programmes: political, student, cultural, children's and sports. Jean-Claude Kennedy (France), Secretary-General of the standing commission, pointed out at the first session that in the

Soviet capital there were all the opportunities for holding this major form of youth and students of the planet. Even a cursory glance, he said, is enough to be sure that all the participants and guests of the Moscow festival will be provided here with every opportunity for discussions, meetings, get-togethers, sport, recreation and entertainment.

The standing commission will also establish contact with all the organizations, wishing to attend the festival and disseminate information about preparations for this event. Besides, it is meant to contribute to the many-raising campaign for the international solidarity fund of the 12th Festival.

Science and technology

SOLAR BATTERIES

Moscow's "Orbita" shop which specializes in consumer electronics has put on sale new sources of energy for portable radios and tape-recorders — solar batteries.

A solar battery is a good replacement for chemical sources. This is very important, as their manufacture requires considerable amounts of such metals as zinc and manganese. After working for a short time in a radio set, an electronic game or a calculator, a chemical battery is discharged together with its zinc case. In this way, tonnes of this metal find their way to the city dump.

In a city flat, a solar battery can be exposed to light near the window or on a window-sill. In a car, a solar source of energy can be attached to the windshield. Such a battery will work for a long time, using either the solar rays or, with the onset of dusk, the light of a conventional bulb.

FURNACE FOR DIAMONDS

The first serial plant for the synthesis of big-size substitutes for diamonds has been made at the All-Union Institute of High-Frequency Currents. Such equipment is capable of growing stones weighing up to 2 kg, which several times exceeds earlier results.

Use of such big crystals will broaden opportunities in rig drilling, laser technology and metalworking. Stones obtained in a variable magnetic field are more valuable for science and technology than natural ones. Being a little smaller, they excel diamonds in thermal stability, strength and are ideally suited for high-speed grinding, high-resolution lenses can also be made from such crystals.

VIEWPOINT

Preventing occupational diseases

In the USSR, 120 medical institutions deal with problems of industrial hygiene and occupational diseases. All kinds of studies in this field are concentrated in the Research Institute of Industrial Hygiene and Occupational Diseases of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences. Alexandra KURBAKOVA, deputy-director of the Institute, talks to MNI about some of the problems being tackled by Soviet hygiene experts.

We are working in two directions: first, we are preparing recommendations that can win against the onset of occupational diseases; second, we are developing methods of diagnosing and curing such diseases.

Scientists are studying the factors which can unambiguously affect health: for example, vibration, noise, chemical substances, magnetic and electromagnetic fields. To find out the factors which are safe for human health, it must be stressed that Soviet scientists continue the environment and working areas are the world's strictest.

Medical scientists are participating in the development of new and more effective purification facilities and methods, the production of which has sharply increased of late. For example, experts in Khimikov have initiated the reconstruction of coke and chemical enterprises of the Ukraine — one of the most powerful metallurgical bases of the Soviet Union. As a result of these measures the republic has practically got rid of occupational intoxication caused by the coke-and-chemical industry.

Zero-waste technologies and remote control of harmful production processes developed by Soviet specialists have considerably reduced the adverse effects of contact with many unfavourable factors.

Nervous and emotional stress has been growing of late and the influence of various electromagnetic fields continues to increase in many spheres of man's activities, especially where mechanization and automation of production processes are concerned. Scientists are thus faced with new problems.

Regular medical check-ups will play a major role in the prevention and treatment of occupational diseases in the USSR. Preventive centres are specialized medical institutions which have clinical departments and hospitals.

Soviet experts in hygiene maintain contacts with their colleagues abroad. Specialists to CMHA member-countries, work in various areas of the so-called Hygiene and Occupational Diseases. One of them is the utilization of standards for all CMHA member-countries.

Together with Finnish scientists are conducting research into the effects of chemical substances on the human cardiovascular system. A monograph on this problem is now being prepared.

Soviet specialists participate in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which recently has conducted in Moscow for experts from developing countries.

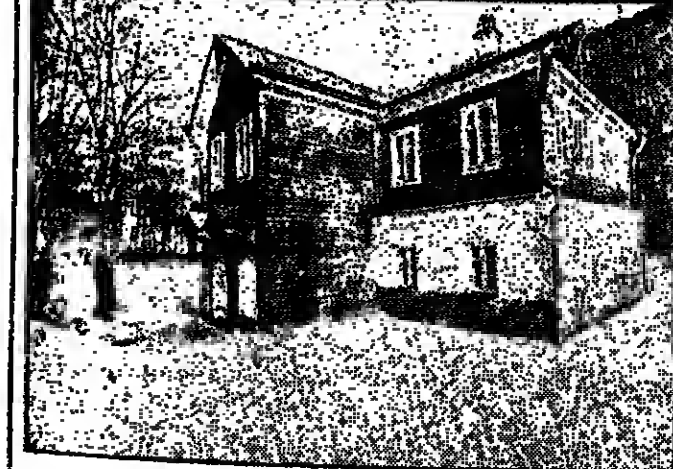
Places to visit

OSTROVSKY'S HOUSE-MUSEUM

This is the house in the Zamoskvoretsky District where the future author of "The Thunderstorm" and "Withind Dowry" was born Alexander Ostrovsky called himself "a Muscovite through and through". It is hard to find another writer as closely linked with his city as he is. After high school he enrolled in the university, then worked in courts. A cousin of Mins

cow, the playwright became a splendid survivor of its estates and their manners and customs. It is noteworthy that during his lifetime all the plays of the writer were produced by the Mary Theatre and today also they are in the repertoire of Moscow theatres.

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GUEST PERFORMANCES BY UKRAINIAN FOLK ART COMPANY IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES

The Gorlitsa amateur folk art company from the city of Kamnitsa-Podolsky (Soviet Ukraine) is leaving on a long tour of African countries, which will take

the group to Angola, Nigeria, Guinea-Bissau, Benin and Sierra Leone.

The performers — students of the teacher institute — have included in their programme folk songs and dances of the Ukraine, Moldavia, Byelorussia and other Soviet republics and also choreographic ensembles and compositions to the music of folk songs.

OF INTEREST

THE CUNNING FOX

Fox is cunning. This has been known for ages. An interesting fact recently took place in Bashkiria, a village in Bashkiria, an autonomous republic in the RSFSR.

One of the workers of the local timber-felling centre complained that someone was stealing his chickens regularly. The thief appeared from nowhere, snatched a chicken, made a lot of noise and vanished.

One day the worker rushed out of his cottage at hearing the usual noise, and again saw no one. The day was snowy and he noticed that the tracks led underneath the porch. Everything became clear: the cunning animal had under the porch and waited patiently until the foxes subsided.

A teacher training school in Minsk, the capital of Byelorussia, has many students from Afghanistan, Cuba, Syria, Laos and other countries. Not so long ago they travelled to Yerevan, the capital of Armenia for vacation. In addition to sightseeing and visits to theatres and museums, they were invited to the local industrial teacher training school. Pictured here is Sergei Galst'yan, a supervisor of the school, discussing his "know-how" with the guests.



FROM THE SOVIET PRESS

USSR POPULATION NOW 276,300,000

More than 60 years ago poet Vladimir Mayakovsky entitled one of his poems "150,000,000". This was the country's population in the twenties whereas early in the 70s we learned about the birth of the 200 millionth Soviet citizen. Not long ago the USSR Central Statistical Bureau reported that the country's population had reached 276,300,000.

Commenting on this in IZVESTIA, Igor Boshuyev-Lad, department head of the Sociological Research Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences, writes that the statistical data indicate increasing birth-rate in the country. This, he believes, is the result of effective demographic policy: improved living conditions, more places in kindergartens and a number of other measures taken in fulfilment of the tasks of the 26th CPSU Congress.

It may also be mentioned that Soviet society is now at the height of demographic rise, notes the author. This presupposes the ratio in the number of babies and young people who enter matrimony as well as those who reach the most suitable age for this. The boys of birth-cohort and motherhood age naturally, connected with peace. During the Great Patriotic War many people were deprived of the opportunity to have families. After the war birth-rate went up in conformity with

the new demographic growth led on the mid-sixties and we are currently experiencing the same phenomenon.

MODEL OF A GULF

In Leningrad, Europe's largest computerized hydrodynamic model has been built and put into operation. It simulates 1,400 square kilometres of the Novo mouth on the Gulf of Finland. The model is intended for studying the system of flows in connection with a complex of facilities protecting Leningrad from floods, now under construction. STROYBLNA GAZETA reports.

Two cycles of modelling have already been completed. The first cycle involved forecasting — the pattern of flows after the flood checking facilities have been completed. The results showed that the arrangement of structures was chosen right and that they will not interfere with the natural pattern of flows in the area.

The second cycle of modelling had a lesser scale but was likewise important: to select the best schedule for building these structures in order not to spoil the quality of water in the gulf.

AIRCRAFT TECHNOLOGY IN RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S ECONOMY

The 1985 services to be rendered by civil aviation to the national economy of the Russian Federation are discussed in SOVIETSKAYA ROSSIYA by Boris Panyagin, First Deputy Minister of the USSR Civil Aviation. The Russian Federation accounts for 62 per cent of services rendered by civil aviation nationwide. The Ministry of Geology receives more services than any other agency. All geologists receive cargoes and equipment to carry out surveying operations over vast areas in the Far East, Yakutia and the Far East. This year alone, for various places in the Centre to many destinations, Western Siberia planes will convey more than 900,000 passengers — members of visiting teams.

Like in previous years, Aeroflot will play special role in the development of the West Siberian oil and gas extraction complex. This region is known for its responsible for 35 per cent of all oil and gas production in the national economy. Forest and timber industry — a total of 850 million hectares — is another big job for Aeroflot in the Russian Federation. Also populated by the Northern people are given priority treatment by the USSR Ministry of Civil Aviation.

ENTERTAINMENT

Cultural cooperation

Days of Soviet Music will feature Bulgarian lieder with the art of our country's leading companies and performers. The Days are envisaged under the protocol of cooperation in 1985 between the USSR Ministry of Culture and the Committee on Culture of Bulgaria.

Activities marking the 40th anniversary of the great Victory stand out prominently in joint programmes, and among them is the festival of Soviet amateur art and exhibitions to be held in Bulgaria.

In turn, the USSR will arrange exhibitions of Bulgarian drawings, paintings and crafts. Enthusiasts of dramatic art will enjoy the skill of many companies. The State Theatre of Minin, headed by Arkady Raikin, is preparing towards a trip to Sofia, while the ballet troupe of the Estonia Company and the Latvian Theatre will embark on a grand performance tour. The Sofia St. Markovskiy Musical Theatre and the Teatr and Laughter Drama Theatre will perform in the USSR.

Conductor from twinned city

Bulgarian conductor Krastyu Mirav was congratulated by his Leningrad colleagues after conducting the "Ugolets" at the Nely Opera and Ballet Theatre.

The Bulgarian guest, who is also chief director of the Plovdiv People's Opera, said that he was happy to meet once more his Soviet friends who last autumn produced Andrei Petrov's opera "Fata Morgana" in his country. "Fata Morgana", he added, unanimously evaluated this talented work as a colourful event in the cultural life of Bulgaria. And though the soloists sang in Russian, the audience did not encounter any language barrier.

The Plovdiv theatre also lavishly stages in Russian the opera "Engena Onegin" and "Boris Godunov", the production of which Merav took part in. Creative contacts of musical theatres in the twinned cities of Leningrad and Plovdiv are growing. The collectives exchange production teams and soloists. Currently they are preparing to visit each other with guest performances.

Children's opera in Ukraine

The Children's Musical Theatre in Kiev marked its birthday by staging the Ukrainian opera "Winter and Spring" by Nikolai Lyrenko (1842-1912), founder of Ukrainian classical music. Now the country has acquired another theatre of the kind (Moscow's being the first). The company consists of young soloists who passed through severe elimination contests. The children's opera demands versatility of its actors for their art is addressed to small kids, teenagers and youth. The repertoire and the corresponding form of interpretation are chosen with due consideration for the audience's age. The small children are offered one-act operas and ballets based on fairy tales, older children—pantomime and philosophical compositions, symphonic poems and musicals.

The theatre's repertoire features both foreign classic and works by modern Western composers. They plan to stage the opera-ballet "L'Enfant et les sortilèges" by Maurice Ravel, "Cendrillon" by Benjamin Britten, and a symphonic piece "Cinderella for Orchestra" by Benjamin Britten.

Theatre, Cinema and TV Stars

ANDRIS LIEPA

The end of last year turned happy for Andris Liepa, a young soloist with the Bolshoi Ballet company. He danced the leading parts in Boris Bartok's "The Wooden Prince" and Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker".

Ballet lovers first learned about him four years ago, at the 4th International Ballet Contest in Moscow, when 19-year-old Andris became the winner in the junior group.

Then he struck both the international jury and the participants by the accurate performance of difficult elements, high leaps, artistic expressiveness and charm. He skillfully performed — on a par with adult challengers — the most difficult pas-de-deux from classical ballets. Performing complex variations and lifts from Adam's "Corsaire" which demand high technique and strength, he looked amazingly like his father Meris Liepa, the unsurpassed classical dancer. In a number of modern choreography "Youth" to music by Mikael Tariverdiyev he appeared not only as a mature dancer but also displayed acting talent. In the last rehearsal his mother Margareta Zhigunova, an actress with the Pushkin Drama Theatre, said: "I met Andris when a first-

former at the Moscow Ballet School. Then he amazed me by his attentiveness and industry. Our second meeting was a year later at the Staldevsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theatre. That night Konische Oper from the GDR staged there the ballet "Undine" by Debussy. "Who are you with here, Andris?" I asked. "Alone. Dad's on tour and Mum's at the theatre." "Do you like the ballet?" "Yes, very." "How are things at school?" "Working hard." "Are you firm to become a ballet dancer?" "Yes, I am, like Dad. I know I need to work hard," said the 11-year-old boy. And the result of his studies — becoming the winner of the contest in 1981.

That same year Andris joined the Bolshoi and started with dancing. Though he already appeared in leading parts, for instance, "Valse Precedente" for instance. And now after four years of work at the theatre he appeared in "The Wooden Prince" and "The Nutcracker". The latter part he rehearsed for a year and learned that he was named for the ballet only ten days before the performance. "Surprise is always pleasant," says the young dancer. "It gives me a lot of pleasure. It gives the audience by his high

leaps, brilliant postures and movements and rare lyrics.

This year Andris will dance the part of Prince Karsky in the ballet "Ivan the Terrible" by Prokofiev. He is reading literature and documents about that



Andris Liepa as Prince in the ballet "The Nutcracker".

Photo by Sergei Salavayev

a long time I dreamed of dancing in ballets staged by Yuri Gorkovitch and myself was prepared. Now my dream has become a reality. After the performance the chief choreographer praised my dancing. It was a great honour. My partner, the brilliant Lyudmila Semenyak, also encouraged me."

In "The Nutcracker" Andris was the audience by his high

'Raduga' festival ends

The 6th International festival of TV folk art programmes, "Raduga", has ended in Moscow.

Mongolian TV programme "Holiday for Sanctifying the Scythe" won the first place and the Grand Prix. The second prize went to Brazilian film makers, while the third was awarded to the Soviet Central Television film: "Fata Morgana".

The jury also commended Portuguese, Iraqi and Polish films.

Other winners and participants of the "Raduga" festival were solemnly presented with diplomas and objects of folk crafts — Lvov pottery, Kharkiv ware, Zolotovo toys, Gobi bowls and Leningrad china.

On the night of February 11 TV audiences will see a concert dedicated to the opening of the festival, to be followed later by a weekly demonstration of TV programmes about folk art. It will continue till the end of the year and winners will be determined by TV viewers.

WHAT'S ON!

February 12-15

THEATRES

Bolshoi Theatre (Sverdlov St). 12 — Tchaikovsky, "The Nutcracker"; 13 — Tchaikovsky, "Swan Lake" (ballet). 14 — Verdi, "Otello" (opera). 15 — Prokofiev, "Romeo and Juliet" (ballet). Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theatre (17 Pushkinskaya St). 12 — The opera evening. 13 — Tchaikovsky, "The Snow Maiden" (ballet). 14 — Khrennikov, "Dorothey" (opera). 15 — Balasanyan, "Shakuntala" (ballet). Operetta Theatre (8 Pushkinskaya St). 12 — Strauss, "Long Live the Waltz". 13 — Glinkov, "The Elder Son" (opera, performed by the Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theatre). 14 — Kremer, "Catherine". 15 — Kaimen, "The Gypsy Princess".

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition Hall, Nature Protection Society (5 Vorovskaya St). An exhibition "Northern Palms". On display are waxes, corvins. Daily, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Metro Arkarskaya, trolleybus 2, bus 88.

CONCERT HALLS

Olympic Sports Complex (Molra Prospekt Mikh). 15 — An optimistic story, "Born to Win a Victory". Featuring Moscow's victory over the Soviet Union. Led by the choir, Estonian performers, Anna Veski and Jukka-Pekka well as the State National

FILMS

The Third Side at the Gorki (Bulgaria). A detective story about a criminal group specializing in stealing and smuggling ob-



In Czechoslovakia Soviet and Czechoslovak film makers are co-producing the shooting of the film "Boris Godunov" directed by famous Soviet film director Sergei Bondarchuk.

At the film festival in Sofia, Bulgaria. Sergei Bondarchuk as Boris Godunov.

BUSINESS

BANCO EXTERIOR DE ESPANA'S MOSCOW OFFICE IS 5.

The development of international trade links and international cooperation promotes consolidation of peace and friendship between nations, said Francisco Bernandez Odonea, President of Banco Exterior de Espana who recently visited Moscow. The bank opened the 5th anniversary of its Moscow office. That State Bank of Spain now ensures with credits approximately 25 per cent of Soviet-Spanish trade which more than doubled in the past five years.

4,000 MILLION DOLLARS' WORTH OF SALES OVER FIVE YEARS

In Moscow, a trade protocol was signed between the USSR and Afghanistan for 1985, envisaging a considerable growth in sales.

Afghanistan Minister of Commerce Mohammad Khan Jalalov, who signed the protocol for Afghanistan, had the following to say to our correspondents:

Trade with the Soviet Union is of special importance for Afghanistan. From the USSR we receive goods conducive to boosting our economy and improving the people's well-being. The USSR, as before, will continue to supply us with machines and equipment, vehicles, oil products, ferrous metals, as well as wheat, sugar and many other goods. I would like to emphasize that all these products are necessary for us and that we are very grateful for them. Afghanistan will export to the USSR natural gas, carabamide, cotton fibres, fresh and dried fruit, etc.

The Soviet Union continues to be our biggest trade partner accounting for nearly 60 per cent of our foreign trade. In 1985 is the last year of the five-year trade agreement concluded by our two countries. And with almost a year ahead

we are sure that the targets planned for the five-year period will be fulfilled. By virtue of the present protocol our mutual sales over these years will reach 4,000 million level. We are planning to start negotiations over a trade agreement for the next five years.

Discussed were prospects of further expansion of bilateral links and also economic cooperation in the light industry and the traditional spheres such as the food industry, fisheries, production technology. 50 Spanish firms used services of the bank's Moscow representation in 1984. Meetings and negotiations with representatives of Soviet foreign trade organizations were organized for them.

Contacts and contracts

At the USSR Foreign Ministry V/O Soyuzveshtorgimport and the Italian firm Cogoli have signed a long-term contract for three shoe factories to be built in 1985-87 in Moscow, Kaluga and Togliatti, each with a capacity of 2 million pairs a year.

Via Soviet Nikols, Hungary will be supplied with nearly 400 Soviet excavators. At present more than 3,000 Soviet machines, including hydraulic and ditch excavators, are operating in Hungary.

Consultations on joint fisheries outside the coasts of the USSR and Japan in 1985 have ended with the signing of a protocol by the extraordinary session of the Soviet-Japanese commission.

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- Public relations services.
- Other advertising services practised in the USSR.



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'Miracle on the Nile'

The Egyptian press was devoting considerable attention to the 25th anniversary (marked recently) of the commencement of work on the Aswan High Dam.

The mass media stressed that the hydroelectric complex built with Soviet assistance had greatly contributed to the economy of Egypt.

The Aswan hydroelectric scheme, wrote the weekly "Rose el-Youssef", produces nearly half of the country's total output of electric energy. During the years when the Egyptian oil deposits on the Sinai Peninsula were occupied by Israel, this scheme was the only source of energy and saved the country from energy hunger.

The Egyptian news agency MENA added the exceptionally great efficiency of the giant power plant on the Nile. Expenditure on its construction was repaid only after a few years. The special importance of the Aswan hydroelectric complex is seen against the background of the disastrous drought, which has been raging in many African countries over the past six years.

Highly appreciating the work done by the builders of the project of this century, the press noted that the "miracle on the Nile" as the Aswan High Dam is called in Egypt, has been built after the United States tried to exert pressure on Egypt to return to British

FINLAND, USSR—TIES AND EXHIBITIONS

The erection of various types of dwellings and other civil projects, energy provision and conservation of energy, and heating installations — those and other matters were discussed recently at preliminary talks between Eduard Samalaky, Vice-Chairman of the State Civil Construction Committee, and Mr. Eiko Puranen, main coordinator for building contracts of the Foreign Trade Council of Finland. Also discussed was housing construction in northern conditions. Now more concrete proposals are being prepared and will be submitted for consideration of the 14th session of the Soviet-Finnish working group on construction, scheduled for the middle of 1985.

The dream machine for a modern woman

The GDR Trade Representation in Moscow has arranged an exhibition dedicated to the 30 years of sewing machine exports to the USSR. Central to the exhibition was a domestic sewing machine of the "Colibri 4500" type with electronic needle positioning and rpm control. The machine has won golden medals at different international exhibitions.

Since 1955 the Soviet Union has imported 1,200 thousand sewing machines for domestic applications produced by our factory Wollgarn Bibich. Veritas director for sales and to an MNI correspondent. To look always elegant and fashionable, many women prefer to sew by themselves. Our machines can do many jobs: buttonholes and bobbin winding, stretch and ornamental stitching, etc. The "Colibri 4500" will suit the most demanding of sewers. It would like to call our attention to the "dream machine" for a modern woman. It is the Colibri 4500. It is the Soviet Union. Moreover, our factory offers a long-term service and undertakes to supply spares even 35 years after we stop making the machine.